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11. *Suggestions for the improvement of agriculture.*

*Mr. M. K. Narayana Pillai* (Member, Trivandrum Taluk) said that the question of agricultural reforms was brought up at the last session of the Assembly and the reply given was that proper steps would be taken after the arrival of the agricultural expert who was expected to arrive shortly. It was also seen from the address of this year that some proposals were already under the consideration of Government. As the present agricultural condition of the people of the country was thus engaging attention, the Member said that he would only make the following suggestions for the consideration of Government:—

(1) Government should open shifting demonstration farms to enable the farmers of different taluks to examine them and profit by the improved methods of carrying on agriculture. Arrangements should also be made to keep in these farms some of the most useful machines and implements of agriculture, such as oil-engines and pumps for lifting water, winnowing machines, seed drills, improved ploughs etc. The machines, besides being kept in the farms for exhibition, might also be rented out to the farmers.

(2) Government should open seed depôts from which farmers could get good seeds for cultivation.

(3) Agricultural studies should be made compulsory in Middle School classes; gardens should be attached to all schools to enable the pupils to acquire practical training; agricultural schools should be opened in which a two or three years' course might be given to those who wish to make a special study of the subject; and a central agricultural training school should also be instituted.

(4) Arrangements should be made for holding agricultural exhibitions at the time of the Assembly.

(5) Government should establish grain banks for the benefit of the people, on the lines of similar institutions in Scotland, France and Germany.

The Member also suggested that the question of cutting a Kal from the Aruvikkara river through Ol oor, Pattom, etc. might be taken up by Government. If the work be executed, several thousand paras of wet lands could be easily irrigated.

*Dewan's reply*.—The suggestions of the Member are noted. I would advise him to see Dr. Kunjan Pillai, who,

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I have no doubt, will be glad to hear the member's views and suggestions.

**12. Opening of more veterinary hospitals in the State.**

*Mr. Geevergħese* (Member, Quilon Taluk) said that Government were aware of the heavy losses sustained by the ryots in different parts of the State owing to the death of several of their cattle from infectious diseases. With a view to prevent similar recurrences in future, he requested that a veterinary hospital be opened in each taluk, and that if that was considered not practicable, one should be established at least in each division as advised by the Director of Agriculture.

*Mr. T. N. Sivasankara Pillai* (Member, Eraniel Taluk) also suggested the desirability of establishing a veterinary hospital in each taluk. As an alternative, he requested that liberal grants might be given to trained Native Vaidyans.

*Dewan's reply*.—The application for more veterinary hospitals is noted and would be granted consistently with the funds at the disposal of Government.

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The Assembly adjourned at 2 P. M. and met again at 2-30 P. M.

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**13. Settlement of cherikkal lands.**

*Mr. P. I. Chandy* (Member, Changanachery Taluk) requested that, in consideration of the long-standing possessory rights of the cherikkal holders and in view of their present impoverished condition, the cherikkal lands might be registered in the names of the present holders on a very light tax computed on the basis of a single rice crop derivable from the lands once in every twelve years and that the ryots might also be helped with loans and demonstrations in model cultivation. He added that, as regards the latter part of his question, he was glad that Government were taking action.

*Mr. P. G. Govinda Pillai* (Member, Chengannur Taluk) said that the question of revising the Rules dated 23rd March 1907, for the settlement of cherikkal lands, had formed the subject of several memorials to Government. The question was also brought up at the last session of the Assembly, but he was sorry that Government had not done anything in the way of relaxing the rigidity of the rules. Under the existing rules, it was very difficult for cherikkal owners to hold their lands, as the profit out of the lands would not suffice even to meet the Government demand. The special difficulties attending

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